

A circular black and white stamp. The outer ring contains the text "OIPE" at the top and "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" at the bottom. In the center, the date "OCT 18 2001" is stamped. To the right of the date, the text "JC183" is visible.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231 on October 15, 2001.

Martha P. Acosta 10/15/01
Signature Date

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231
Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the patentability of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to

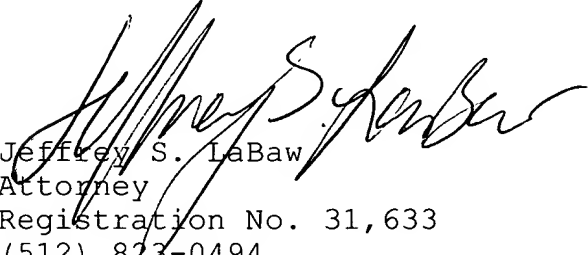
constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g) the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 (a) exists.

The attached form, PTO-1449, provides a listing of patents, publications, or other information as required by 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(1).

A copy of each of the items on PTO-1449 is supplied herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey S. LaBaw
Attorney
Registration No. 31,633
(512) 823-0494

JSL:ma